

Amendment to the Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (Amended) A machine for piercing sheets of material comprising:  
an adjustable apparatus that can be moved by hand;  
the adjustable apparatus acts as a stop to ~~the moveable~~ a  
moveable cutting die containing ~~the punch~~ a punch pattern thereby varying  
~~the amount~~ an amount of the punch pattern cut into a sheet of material being  
punched;

the moveable cutting die is designed with a cutting surface so  
that said adjustable apparatus can limit the amount of said sheet of said  
material cut by said cutting surface;

the adjustable apparatus can be moved to a position so that said  
designed pattern of said punch is cut fully out of said sheet of said material  
by the movement of said moveable cutting die;

a frame which holds said adjustable apparatus and said  
moveable punch cutting die with said moveable cutting die held in the top of  
said frame and a hole corresponding to said moveable cutting die in ~~the base~~  
a base of said frame wherein said frame aligns said moveable cutting die to  
said hole allowing for said moveable cutting die to be moved through said  
hole;

a slot in said frame with said slot extending partially through said frame to accept and restrain said sheet of said material prior to said sheet of said material being punched;

a means to activate said moveable cutting die moving said cutting die to where it contacts said sheet of said material in said slot cutting said sheet of said material;

and a spring installed within said frame to return said moveable cutting die to a starting position allowing easy removal of said sheet of said material.

2.(Amended) A machine for piercing sheets of material as claimed in claim 1 wherein said cutting surface of said moveable cutting die is formed in a curved shape.

Claims 3, 4 (Canceled)

5.(Amended) A machine for piercing sheets of material as claimed in claim 1 wherein said adjustable apparatus is a an externally threaded piece of hardware that is located in a matching threaded insert attached to said frame such that said externally threaded piece of hardware can be rotated within said threaded insert moving said threaded piece of hardware up and down thereby adjusting and controlling the amount of travel of said moveable cutting die and acting as said stop.

Claims 6-8 (Canceled)

9 .(Amended) A machine for piercing sheets of material as claimed in claim 1 wherein said means to activate said moveable cutting die is a thumb controlled lever in sliding contact with said moveable cutting die thereby creating the necessary motion when said lever is pushed by said thumb, ~~and wherein said lever is held against the force in the created by said spring by portions of said frame.~~

Claim 10 (Canceled)

11. (Amended) A machine for piercing sheets of material as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a housing to enclose said frame and to permanently enclose a portion of said means of activating said moveable cutting die.

12. (Amended) A machine for piercing sheets of material as claimed in claim 1 wherein a portion of said adjustable apparatus is fabricated as a an integral part of said housing.

13. (Amended) A machine for piercing sheets of material as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a locking hinge mechanism located at said base of said ~~machine~~ frame where said locking hinge mechanism allows said base to be moved away from the rest of said machine following said material piercing thereby allowing for easy release of said material and said locking hinge mechanism then allows said base to be returned to the original starting position.

Claims 14 and 15 (Canceled)

16.(Amended) A machine for piercing sheets of material comprising:  
an adjustable apparatus that can be moved by hand;  
the adjustable apparatus acts as a stop to ~~the moveable a~~  
moveable cutting die containing ~~the punch a punch~~ pattern thereby varying  
~~the amount~~ an amount of the punch pattern cut into a sheet of material being  
punched;

the moveable cutting die is designed with a cutting surface so  
that said adjustable apparatus can limit the amount of said sheet of said  
material cut by said cutting surface;

the adjustable apparatus can be moved to a position so that said  
designed pattern of ~~said punch a punch~~ is cut fully out of said sheet of said  
material by the movement of said moveable cutting die;

a frame which holds said adjustable apparatus and said  
moveable punch cutting die with said moveable cutting die held in the top of  
said frame and a hole corresponding to said moveable cutting die in ~~the base~~  
a base of said frame wherein said frame aligns said moveable cutting die to  
said hole allowing for said moveable cutting die to be moved through said  
hole;

a slot in said frame with said slot extending partially through  
said frame to accept and restrain said sheet of said material prior to said  
sheet of said material being punched;

and a means to activate said moveable cutting die moving said  
cutting die to where it contacts said sheet of said material in said slot cutting  
said sheet of said material.

17. (Amended) A machine for piercing sheets of material as claimed in claim 16 wherein said cutting surface of said moveable cutting die is formed in a curved shape.

Claims 18, 19 (Canceled)

20.(Amended) A machine for piercing sheets of material as claimed in claim 16 wherein said adjustable apparatus is ~~a threaded an~~ externally threaded piece of hardware that is located in a matching threaded insert attached to said frame such that said externally threaded piece of hardware can be rotated within said threaded insert moving said threaded piece of hardware up and down thereby adjusting and controlling the amount of travel of said moveable cutting die and acting as said stop.

Claims 21 and 22 (Canceled)

23.(Amended) A machine for piercing sheets of material as claimed in claim 16 wherein said means to activate said moveable cutting die is a thumb controlled lever in sliding contact with said moveable cutting die thereby creating the necessary motion when said lever is pushed by said thumb.

Claim 24 (Canceled)

25.(Amended) A machine for piercing sheets of material as claimed in claim 16 further comprising a housing to enclose said frame and to permanently enclose a portion of said means of activating said moveable cutting die.

26.(Amended) A machine for piercing sheets of material as claimed in ~~claim 25~~ claim 16 wherein a portion of said adjustable apparatus is fabricated as a an integral part of said housing.

27.(Amended) A machine for piercing sheets of material as claimed in claim 16 further comprising a locking hinge mechanism located at the base of said machine frame where said locking hinge mechanism allows said base to be moved away from the rest of said machine following said material piercing thereby allowing for easy release of said material and said locking hinge mechanism then allows said base to be returned to the original starting position.

Claims 28 and 29 (Canceled)

30.(Amended) An adjustable apparatus that can be added to existing decorative sheet punches comprising:

said adjustable apparatus acts as a stop to ~~the moveable~~ a moveable cutting die containing the punch pattern thereby limiting the amount of ~~said punch~~ a punch pattern cut into ~~the sheet~~ a sheet of material being punched;

said moveable cutting die is designed with a curved cutting surface so that said adjustable apparatus can limit the amount of paper cut by that curved surface;

said adjustable apparatus can be moved to a position so that said designed pattern of said punch is cut fully out of said sheet of material paper;

and said adjustable apparatus can be permanently installed on the existing decorative sheet punches.

Claims 32 and 33 (Canceled)

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